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APPLICATION NO..	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/542,962	04/25/2006	Franciscus Hermanus Antonius Bolder	000004.P004	1974
52418 7590 11/19/2007 HAHN AND MOODLEY, LLP P.O. BOX 52050 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402			EXAMINER LAO, MARIALOUISA	
			ART UNIT 1621	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 11/19/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/542,962

Applicant(s)

BOLDER, FRANCISCUS
HERMANUS ANTONIUS

Examiner

M. Louisa Lao

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5 and 6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 7-26 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 4 and 7-26 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim should refer to other claims in the alternative only, and/or, cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim-. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims 4 and 7-26 have not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Walkup et al. (US5252473, US'473).

4. The instant claims are drawn to an esterification catalyst including one or more catalytically active metal oxides. The instant claims are drawn to an esterification process for the reduction of acids in a hydrocarbon composition, said process including contacting the hydrocarbon containing composition with an esterification catalyst at esterification temperature and pressure.

5. US '473 teaches in column 11 lines 39-57 several esterification catalysts including tungsten oxide and molybdenum oxide, which may used alone or as mixtures, and supported on extended materials such as alumina or silica.

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6. US'473 teaches the esterification of lactic acid to methyl lactate (column 6 line 11) with esterification temperature and pressure discussed in column 7 Table 2. US'473 teaches the esterification of acrylic acid to methyl acrylate (column 13 lines 24-25), where the hydrocarbon feed included acrylic acid.
7. Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chun et al. (US3846288, US'288).
8. The instant claims are drawn to an esterification catalyst including one or more catalytically active metal oxides. The instant claims are drawn to an esterification process for the reduction of acids in a hydrocarbon composition, said process including contacting the hydrocarbon containing composition with an esterification catalyst at esterification temperature and pressure.
9. US '288 teaches in column 3, metal oxide catalysts from group IV-B, which may used unsupported or alternatively supported on materials such as alumina or silica.
10. US'288 teaches an esterification process in column 2 of hydrocarbon fuel oil charge at reaction temperatures and pressures described in column 4.
11. The cited prior art references anticipate the instant claims.
12. No claims are allowed.

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MLouisa Lao whose telephone number is 571-272-9930. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays to Thursdays from 8:00am to 8:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yvonne Eyler can be reached on 571-272-0871. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair->

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direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

`ml11122007

MLouisa Lao

Examiner

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for YVONNE EYLER
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